

**MID-WEEK 4  
ADVENT SERVICE**

**DECEMBER 21, 2022**

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

*Missouri Synod*



**703 W 3<sup>RD</sup> Street  
Mercedes, TX 78570  
956.565.1518**

**Immanuelmercedes  
@gmail.com**

**Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor  
eweber10@aol.com  
956.463.1305**

***Sunday***

**9:00 AM**

**Worship Service**

**10:30 am**

***Adult Bible Class  
Sunday School***

**Holy Communion:  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**Website:**

**lutheranmercedes.com**

**FACEBOOK:**

***www.facebook.com/  
lutheranmercedes/***

**Office Hrs, M-F**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**CCLI # 2585510**

# The Fourth Week in Advent



*Redeeming*  
**THE  
TIME**

**IN THESE LAST DAYS**

**“For Christ also suffered  
once for sins, the just for  
the unjust, that He might  
bring us to God, being  
put to death in the flesh  
but made alive  
by the Spirit.”  
(1 Peter 3:18)**

# Mid-Week 4 Advent Service

## December 21, 2022

### WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this evening. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

**A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH** Heavenly Father, throughout this Advent season we have heard that Christ has come in the flesh, that He comes to us today in Word and Sacrament, and that He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Guide us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may be kept firm in Your Word and faith until we are received into Your eternal kingdom. through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

**OPENING HYMN** *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

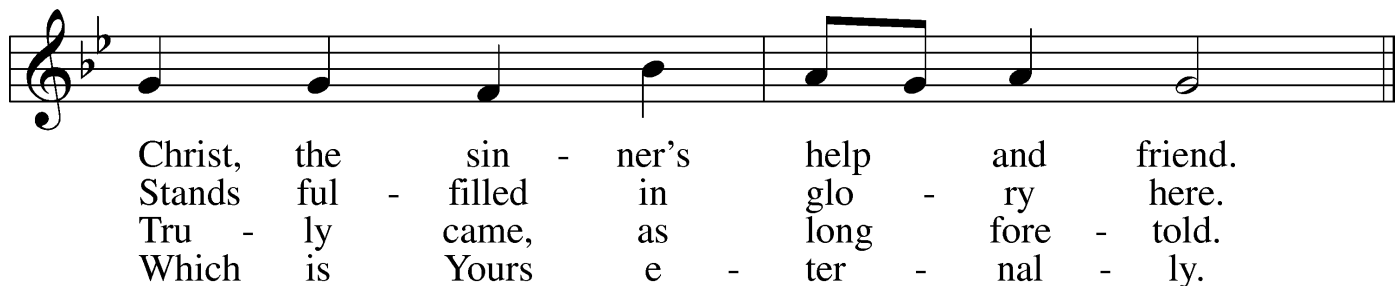
**LSB 352; vs. 1-4,6**



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



- 6 Then when You will come again  
 As the glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy will see Your face,  
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Public domain

*Please Stand*

### + VESPERS +

- P Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**C the light no darkness can overcome.**  
 P By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,  
**C "Prepare the way of the Lord."**  
 P All who wait for Jesus to return pray,  
**C Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

### PSALM *Psalms 141*

- P Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of  
 my hands as the evening sacrifice.  
**C O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly; hear my  
 voice when I cry to You.**  
 P Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of  
 my hands as the evening sacrifice.  
**C Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the  
 door of my lips. Let not my heart incline to any evil  
 thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with  
 evildoers. But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You  
 I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.**

CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE 3

**ALL** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Let my prayer rise before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**PSALM** *Psalm 19*

**P** The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.

**C** **Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.**

**P** There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.

**C** **Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,**

**P** Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

**C** **Its rising is from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

**P** The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

**C** **The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;**

**P** The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**C** **More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.**

- P Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.
- C **Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.**
- P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

*Please Sit*

**HYMN**                      *O Come, O Come, Immanuel*                      **LSB 357; vs. 1,6,7**

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. *Refrain* Re - joice! Re - joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

**ref** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

Public domain

## FIRST READING

*Micah 5:2-5*

2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” 3 Therefore He shall give them up, until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5 And this One shall be peace.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Peter 3:15-18*

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh

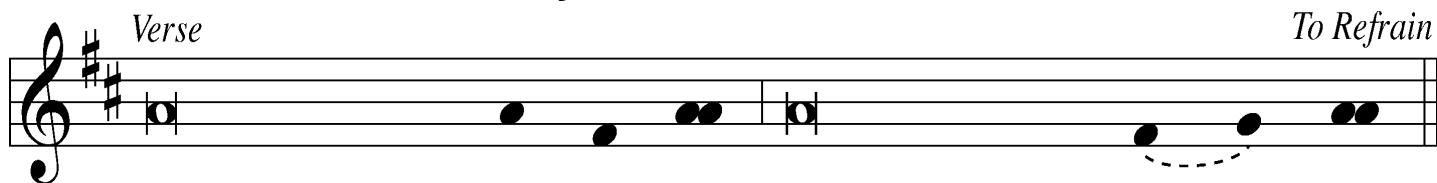
but made alive by the Spirit,  
P O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

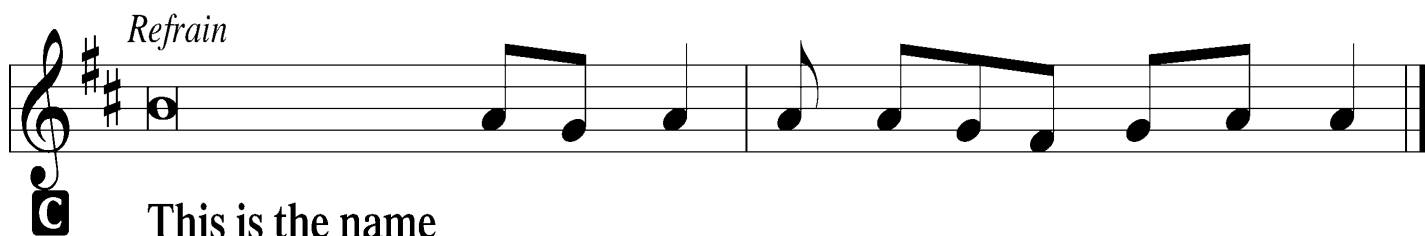
P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old  
By the prophets.

**C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**RESPONSORY**     *Based on Jeremiah 23:5–6; Acts 2:36; Luke 1:32–33*



- L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a right-teous Branch.  
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell se - cure - ly.  
3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Right-teous-ness.

# HYMN OF THE DAY

*All Christians Who Have Been Baptized*

**LSB 596**



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of  
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-  
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-  
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of  
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-  
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-  
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The  
out ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned  
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-stroyed And  
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!  
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.  
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.  
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift  
And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift  
In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul,  
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole  
And then in death completes you.

6 So use it well! You are made new—  
In Christ a new creation!



As faithful Christians, live and do  
Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess  
His glorious robe of righteousness  
Bestowed on you forever!

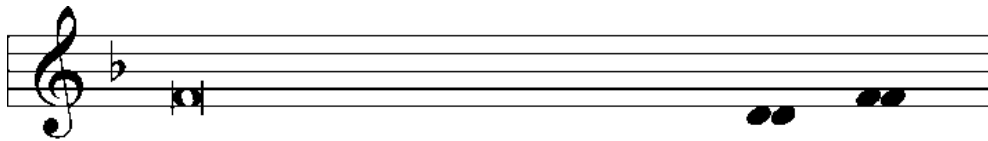
© 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012733. Public domain

**SERMON**     ***“As Those Testifying for the coming Christ”***  
(1 Peter 3:15-18)

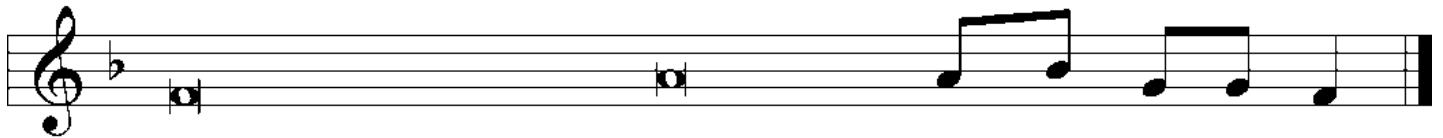
**OFFERING**

*Please Stand*

**CANTICLE**

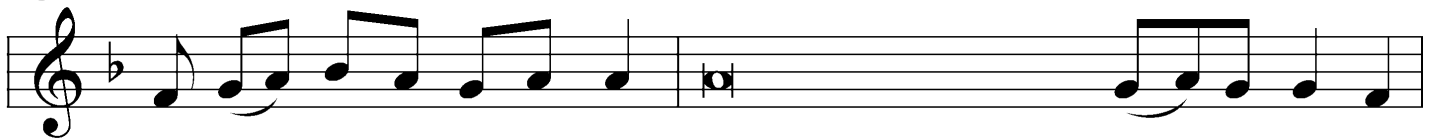


**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

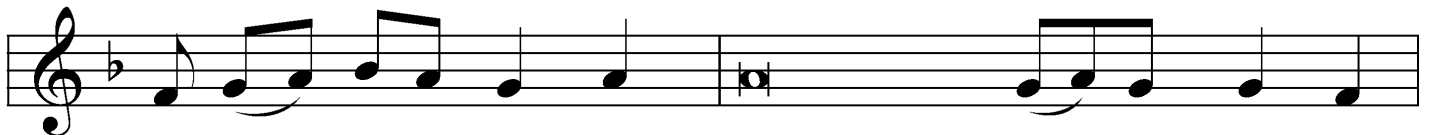


**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

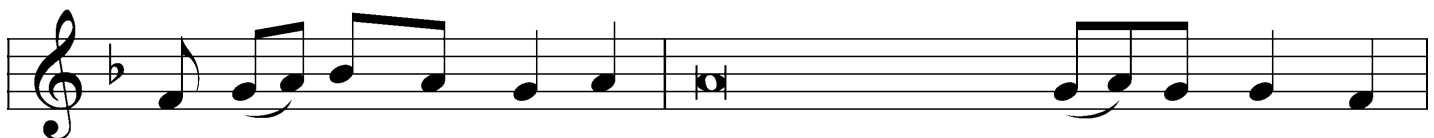
**Magnificat**



**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



for He has re - gard - ed the lowliness of His hand - maid - en.



For be - hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE** <sup>9</sup>



For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



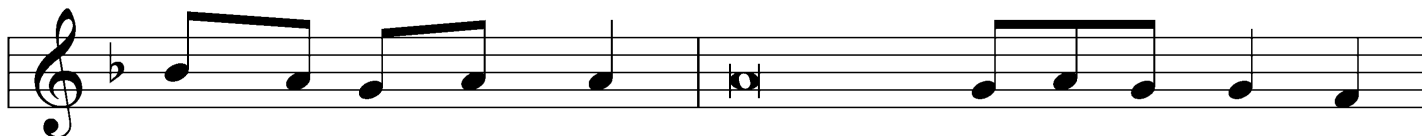
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



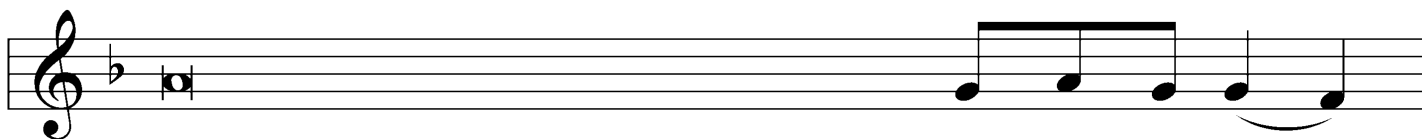
imagination of their hearts. He has cast down the



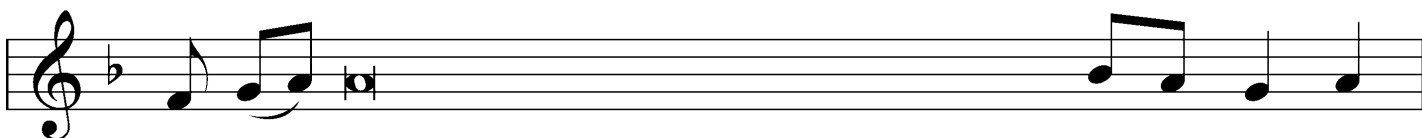
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



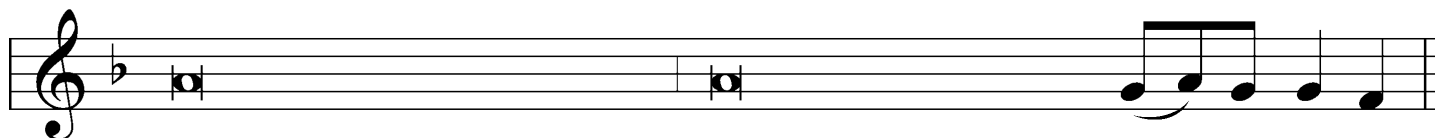
He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



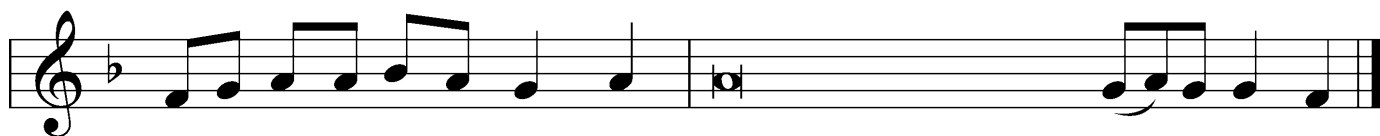
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (Matthew 6:9-13)

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **COLLECTS**

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## **BENEDICAMUS**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C** Amen.

*Please Sit*

## CLOSING HYMN

*If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*

**LSB 750; vs. 1-4,7**



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in  
2 What can these anx - ious cares a - vail thee, These nev - er -  
3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful  
4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what-e'er be -  
ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -  
hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's  
need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in  
wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and  
plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our  
sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.  
tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.  
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.  
thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,  
Perform thy duties faithfully,  
And trust His Word; though undeserving,

**CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE** 13

Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.  
God never yet forsook in need  
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Public domain

